

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1 – 8 were originally pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7 have been amended and claim 9 has been added. No new matter has been added. Also, claims 2, 4, and 8 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 are presently pending for consideration in this application.

Amendments to the Application

Amendment to the Drawings

Figures 1 – 4 of the application, as filed, inadvertently included numbering errors. Specifically, the wet side of the door was inadvertently labeled with reference numeral 10, and the dry side of the door was inadvertently labeled with reference numeral 8. Applicants have amended Figures 1 through 4 to correct these numbering errors, and a replacement drawing sheet with amended Figures 1 through 4 is submitted herewith as an attachment. No new matter has been added. Figures 1, 2, and 4, as amended, now show the wet side of the door properly labeled with reference numeral 8, and Figures 1, 2, and 3, as amended, now show the dry side of the door properly labeled with reference numeral 10.

Figures 1 and 2 of the application, as filed, also inadvertently showed the rib 12 *lower than* the maximum thickness of the individual edge wrapping layers 14. As stated in the specification, the rib 12 is preferably *higher than* the maximum thickness of the individual edge wrapping layers 14. As discussed in greater detail below, applicants have amended Figures 1 and 2 such that the rib 12 conforms to the description in the specification and is higher than the maximum thickness of the

individual edge wrapping layers 14. Support for the amendments to Figures 1 and 2 can be found in the specification at page 2, lines 8 – 9, 15 – 17, page 3, lines 10 – 12, 21 – 22, and in claims 3 and 7. As such, no new matter has been added.

Amendments to the Specification

Amendments to the specification were necessary due to the reference numbering errors in the drawings as mentioned above. Specifically, applicants have amended the specification beginning on page 2, line 5 and ending on page 2, line 19 by removing the phrase “around said wet side door panel” and the sentence “[t]he rib is placed on the wet side door panel” from page 2, lines 6 – 7. The phrase “around said wet side door panel” was removed from page 2, line 14. The sentence “[t]he foam-like material is placed on the dry side door panel and the rib is placed on the wet side door panel” was removed from page 2, lines 14 – 15. Furthermore, the phrases “with the rib” and “with the foam-like material” were removed from the description of Figure 1 at page 2, lines 21 – 22. The phrases “around the wet side door panel 8” and “on the wet side door panel 8” were removed from the specification at page 3, lines 9 – 10. Also, the word “against” was changed to “between” at page 3, line 14, and the phrase “and the wet side door panel 8” was inserted at page 3, line 15. The phrase “around the wet side door panel 8” and the sentence “[t]he rib 12 is placed on the wet side door panel 8” were removed from the specification at page 3, lines 19 – 20. The phrases “is placed on the dry side door panel” and “[t]his foam like material 16” were removed from the specification at page 4, lines 1 – 2. No new matter has been added. The specification, as amended, now corresponds with the drawings.

Applicants also amended the specification to correct inadvertent grammatical errors. Specifically, the specification was amended by deleting the word “of” at page 4, line 2 and by replacing the word “damaging” with the word “damage” at page 4, line 12.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to better define the invention as will be discussed in greater detail below. Claims 3 and 7 have been amended to correct inadvertent typographical errors by replacing the word “then” with “than.”

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner stated that it was not clearly understood what is meant by the phrase “said rib is higher than the maximum thickness of individual said edge wrapping layers.” As mentioned above, applicants have amended Figures 1 and 2 to change the illustration of the rib 12 such that the rib 12 is higher than the maximum thickness of the individual edge wrapping layers 14. Support for the amendments to Figures 1 and 2 can be found in the specification at page 2, lines 8 – 9, 15 – 17, page 3, lines 10 – 12, 21 – 22, and in claims 3 and 7, and as such no new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 7 are definite because Figures 1 and 2 now clearly show the rib 12 extending from the dry side of the door 10 further than the thickness of the wrapping layers 14, and as such, the rib 12 is higher than the maximum thickness of individual edge wrapping layers 14. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 112.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 – 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0180236 to Blomeling et al. A claim is said to be anticipated where each and every limitation of the claim can be found in a single reference. Applicants respectfully submit that the invention described in independent claim 1, as amended, and the claims dependent thereon are neither disclosed nor suggested by the Blomeling et al. '236 patent application. Applicants also respectfully submit that the invention described in independent claim 5, as amended, and the claim dependent thereon are neither disclosed nor suggested by the Blomeling et al. '236 patent application. Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Blomeling et al. '236 Patent Application

The Blomeling et al. '236 patent application discloses a motor vehicle door with an inner wall 3, a cladding part 4 mounted on the inner wall 3, and an insulation element 5. A flexible body W is interposed between the inner wall 3 and the insulation element 5. (¶¶ 42 – 51.) However, the Blomeling et al. '236 patent application fails to disclose or suggest a rib *embedded* so as to create a seal between a wet side and a dry side of a door panel.

The Wrapped Bolster Seal of the Present Invention

In contrast to the related art, claim 1 of the present invention discloses a wrapped bolster seal for doors of a motor vehicle that include at least two door panels, one being a wet side door panel and the other being a dry side door panel, a rib, and edge wrapping layers. The rib is *embedded* so as to create a seal between the wet side door panel and the dry side door panel, and the seal is adapted to reduce moisture from contacting the edge wrapping layers.

Claim 5 of the present application discloses a wrapped bolster seal for doors of a motor vehicle that include at least two door panels, one being a wet side door panel and the other being a dry side door panel, a rib, edge wrapping layers, and a foam-like material. The rib is *embedded within the foam-like material* so as to create a seal between the wet side door panel and the dry side door panel, and the seal is adapted to reduce moisture from contacting the edge wrapping layers.

Argument

Applicants respectfully submit that the invention of claim 1, as amended, is not disclosed or suggested by the Blomeling et al. '236 patent application. Specifically, the Blomeling et al. '236 patent application merely discloses a motor vehicle door with an inner wall 3, a cladding part 4, an insulation element 5 and a flexible body W interposed between the inner wall 3 and the insulation element 5. However, the Blomeling et al. device fails to disclose or suggest a rib *embedded* so as to create a seal between a wet side and a dry side of a door panel as claimed in claim 1. In the Blomeling et al. '236 patent application, the inner wall 3 simply abuts against the flexible body W as shown in Figure 8, but the inner wall 3 is not embedded as required by claim 1.

The prior art fails to disclose a wrapped bolster seal for doors of a motor vehicle that include at least two door panels, one being a wet side door panel and the other being a dry side door panel, a rib, and edge wrapping layers, wherein the rib is embedded so as to create a seal between the wet side door panel and the dry side door panel, and wherein the seal is adapted to reduce moisture from contacting the edge wrapping layers as claimed in amended claim 1 of the present application. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claim 3 is dependent upon claim 1 and adds perfecting limitations. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 3 are allowable over the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Similarly, applicants respectfully submit that the invention of claim 5 is not disclosed or suggested by the Blomeling et al. '236 patent application. Specifically, the Blomeling et al. '236 patent application *merely* discloses a motor vehicle door with an inner wall 3, a cladding part 4, an insulation element 5 and a flexible body W interposed between the inner wall 3 and the insulation element 5. However, the Blomeling et al. device fails to disclose or suggest a rib *embedded within foam-like material* so as to create a seal between a wet side and a dry side of a door panel as claimed in claim 5. In the Blomeling et al. '236 patent application, the inner wall 3 simply abuts against the flexible body W as shown in Figure 8, but the inner wall 3 is not embedded within the flexible body W as required by claim 5.

The prior art fails to disclose a wrapped bolster seal for doors of a motor vehicle that include at least two door panels, one being a wet side door panel and the other being a dry side door panel, a rib, edge wrapping layers, and a foam-like material, wherein the rib is embedded within the foam-like material so as to create a seal between the wet side door panel and the dry side door panel, and wherein the seal is adapted to reduce moisture from contacting the edge wrapping layers as claimed in amended claim 5 of the present application. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 5 is allowable over the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claim 7 is dependent upon claim 5 and adds perfecting limitations. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claims 5 and 7 are allowable over the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

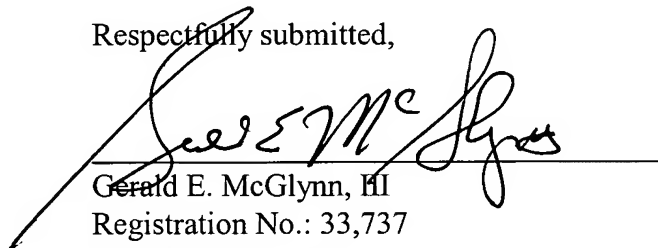
New Claim 9

As noted above, claim 9 was added herein. Claim 9 is supported in the specification in Figure 4 and at page 3, lines 6 – 12 of the specification. As such, no new matter has been added. Claim 9 is dependent upon claim 1 and adds perfecting limitations. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request allowance of claim 9.

Conclusion

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites structure that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art and is patentably distinguishable from the cited art discussed above. Claims 3 and 9 are each ultimately dependent on claim 1 and add perfecting limitations. Claim 5, as amended, recites structure that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art and is patentably distinguishable from the cited art discussed above. Claim 7 is dependent upon claim 5 and adds perfecting limitations. Accordingly, applicants respectfully solicit the allowance of the claims pending in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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